

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 17425 091203Z

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00

EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 /044 W

----- 025495

R 090939Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2517

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 17425

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW

SUBJECT: KE HUA DISCUSSES "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN

1. DURING PRE-PRANDIAL CHITCHAT BEFORE NOVEMBER 8 DINNER AT MALACANANG HOSTED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS FOR MME. BANDARANAIKE, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE PULLED ME ASIDE FOR SOME SENSITIVE CONVERSATION. WHILE WE WERE STANDING CONSPICUOUSLY APART, CHINESE AMBASSADOR KE HUA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS INTERPRETER, DELIBERATELY APPROACHED AND INTERRUPTED US.

2. KE HUA QUICKLY TURNED CONVERSATION TO TAIWAN. HE BELITTLED TAIWANESE PROSPERITY, SAYING IT WAS MANIFESTATION OF JAPANESE AND AMERICAN COLONIALISM. HE THEN SAID RATHER EMPHATICALLY THAT TAIWAN MUST BE LIBERATED FROM THIS COLONIALISM. ENRILE AND I BOTH TOOK TURNS IN SUGGESTING, RATHER TEASINGLY, THAT THE SORT OF INVESTMENT KE HUA CALLED "COLONIALISM" MIGHT BE GOOD FOR THE MAINLAND AND MIGHT EVEN BE NOT TOO FAR OFF UNDER THE ECONOMIC POLICES OF THE

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SECRET

PAGE 02 MANILA 17425 091203Z

NEW REGIME.

3. HE HUA WENT ALONG WITH OUR BANTERING TONE, BUT PERSISTED ON THE SUBJECT OF TAIWAN. HE SAID TAIWAN MUST BE LIBERATED AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE BY THE PEOPLE'S ARMY. HE SAID U.S. HAD OBLIGATION TO REMOVE ITS FORCES FROM TAIWAN AND RENOUNCE ITS DEFENSE TREATY. ONCE THAT HAPPENED, LIBERATION ARMY WOULD DO THE REST.

4. I SAID THAT KE HUA'S PROJECT OF EVENTS WOULD CAUSE U.S. TO HAVE VERY SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT NATURE OF ITS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH PEKING. HE MADE IT SOUND AS THOUGH PEKING WAS ASSERTING AN INTENTION TO INVADE TAIWAN MILITARILY ONCE U.S. FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN.

5. KE HUA IMMEDIATELY SAID THERE WAS NOTHING IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WHICH PRECLUDED USE OF FORCE FOR LIBERATION OF TAIWAN. "I AM A CHINESE AND I KNOW THAT WE HAVE NEVER DENIED OURSELVES THE RIGHT TO LIBERATE TAIWAN BY THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY."

6. ENRILE THEN SAID A MILITARY ATTACK BY PEKING ON TAIWAN WOULD BE A MAJOR ENTERPRISE WHICH WOULD WEAKEN CHINESE DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOVIETS. HE ASKED WHETHER CHINA WOULD FEAR A SOVIET ATTACK IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. KE HUA ANSWERED THAT CHINA HAS TWO MILLION MEN IN PLA AND TWENTY MILLION IN THE MILITIA. CHINA CAN TAKE CARE OF ANY ATTACK AGAINST HER TERRITORY, EVEN IF IT REQUIRES FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS.

8. AT THIS POINT, CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED BY ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL PARTY AND WE ALL SCATTERED TO OUR RESPECTIVE TABLES. I DID NOT HAVE CHANCE TO TALK TO EITHER ENRILE OR KE HUA AGAIN THAT EVENING.

9. COMMENT: THIS BLUSTERING TALK OF KE HUA'S, WHICH IS QUITE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HIS FORMAL RETIRING DEMEANOR, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE AND PROVOCATIVE EXERCISE. HE INITIATED THE DISCUSSION AND CHOSE TO CARRY IT ON WITH TWO PEOPLE HE KNEW WOULD BE SENSITIVE TO IT. I WOULD BE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MANILA 17425 091203Z

INTERESTED IN ANY COMMENTS FROM ADDRESSEES, PARTICULARLY AS TO WHETHER THIS LINE IS BEING MANIFESTED AS STANDARD PRC FARE THESE DAYS. IT WOULD SEEM GENERALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO BE THIS PROVOCATIVE WITH U.S. OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME AND I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ANALYSIS OR GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT IN CASE KE HUA REVERTS TO THIS LINE AT OUR NEXT ENCOUNTER.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA17425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760417-0431
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761167/aaaacfwj.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KE HUA DISCUSSES "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, (KE HUA), (SULLIVAN, WILLIAM H)
To: STATE HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006